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INTERVIEW WITH DR. JOHN A. HANNAH

DAN BLACKBURN: Dr. Hannah, do you expect to preside over the dismantling of the AID Program as we know it today?

DR. JOHN A. HANNAH: Well, I hope it's not the dismantling of a useful foreign assistance program. But I expect that the program is going to be changed rather drastically in the year -- a little more than a year ahead.

ANNOUNCER: This is Profile. Conversations with people in the news, a public affairs presentation of Metromedia Radio News.

BLACKBURN: This is Dan Blackburn in Washington. My fellow reporter on this edition of Profile is A. D. Horn of the Washington Post. Our guest this week is the former President of Michigan State University and now administrator of the Agency for International Development, Dr. John Hannah.

Dr. Hannah, what major changes do you see in the AID Program that might be termed a dismantling or revamping of what everyone has come to know as the AID Program?

HANNAH: Well, as you know, a year ago -- less than a year

better off than we were when we got through with the House.

BLACKBURN: Doctor, how do you respond to complaints the AID Program is being used as a cover for CIA operations in Laos?

HANNAH: Well I just have to admit that that's true. This is a decision that was made back in 1962 and by administrations from now until then, and it's the only place in the world that we are -- I don't like the words CIA cover, but we have had people that have been associated with the CIA and doing things in Laos that were believed to be in the national interest, but not routine AID operations.

HORN: Doesn't this bring us back to the question I raised earlier about the effect on the credibility of the AID Program in other nations?

HANNAH: Yes it does. I didn't deny it. I said it might. Certainly our preference is to get rid of this kind of operation. That's in the Peterson Task Force recommendation. I'm sure it's going to be in the President's recommendation for discussion. I hope it's going to be in the legislation when it's submitted.

HORN: What is your hope for the size of the new -- can you give us any idea what you hope to come out with after the new program is submitted?

HANNAH: Well, first of all, let's say that I hope it's substantially larger than it has been in recent years. I recognize that it's going to have to gain the support of Congress and the American people. It's unrealistic to figure to guess or to hope that it's going to be radically increased in the first step. I think the kind of a program is going to determine the size that